



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: COUNCIL IRRESPONSIBLE WITH OFFICIAL AND UNION PAY RAISES

The City Budget Committee yesterday advanced resolutions supporting massive pay increases for HGEA and UPW union members as well as elected and appointed officials. In total, these raises will cost taxpayers almost \$30 million over the next two fiscal years.

“Without yet another massive tax hike, there is simply no money in the budget to fund these pay raises for the HGEA, UPW or elected officials. These wage increases will throw the budget out of balance at a time when the City is already under a severe fiscal crunch. It is simply irresponsible to give away wage increases to the public worker unions and not inform the public that the only way to fund these huge raises is with massive tax increases,” stated Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki, East Honolulu).

Over the past two years the City Council increased the residential property tax rate, the commercial property tax rate (twice), the vehicle tax, bus fares (twice), building permit fees, instituted park use fees and hiked garbage tipping fees (twice). This year, before public union wage increases were even considered, the City Council was already looking at increasing the vehicle tax (again) by 50%, increasing the sewer fees by 100% and increasing the fees for use of municipal facilities. The City Council is also now examining increasing the general excise tax by 12.5%.

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